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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/880,299	06/13/2001	Norio Sakuma	KIN24AUSA	7382

270 7590 05/19/2003

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EXAMINER

HALPERN, MARK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1731

11

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/880,299

Applicant(s)

SAKUMA ET AL.

Examiner

Mark Halpern

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 3-8, 15 and 16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 3-5 and 15 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 6-8, 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

- 1) Acknowledgement is made of Amendment received 4/14/2003, Paper No. 10.

Applicants amend claim 3.

Specification

- 2) Cross-reference section, page 1, should indicate that application 09/366,628, has been abandoned.

This item is repeated. Applicants have not made the correction.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

- 3) Claims 6-8, 16, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Stigberg (5,208,87).

Claim 6: Stigberg discloses a belt 16 for dewatering a fibrous web 17 while being processed into a paper product. The belt is constructed of an elongated strip 36 that is wound over rolls into an endless loop as shown in Figures 3, 4. The center of the belt strip is a reinforcing web 50, said reinforcing web being surrounded on bottom by a first coating 56, and on the top by a second coating 58. Coatings 56 and 58 are polymeric

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resins layers. Stigberg does not recite the thickness of the polymeric resin layers, nor does Stigberg recite which of the two layers, 56 or 58, is thicker. This however is of little importance since both of the polymeric of resin layers of Stigberg are constructed to have their middle part thicker than their opposite edge parts as shown in Figure 5 (col. 5, line 6 to col. 6, line 52).

Claims 7, 16: the belt is in a press nip 10 between press roll 12 and pressure shoe 14 (col. 4, line 56 to col. 5, line 5), thus the belt is a shoe press belt.

Claim 8: the belt travels on rollers contacting the belt over it entire width as shown in Figures 1-4.

Allowable Subject Matter

4) Claims 3-5, 15, are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The primary reason for indicating allowable subject matter is that the cited prior art does not show a papermaking machine having a belt for transporting a paper sheet along a path, said belt comprising a base layer and a resin layer wherein all of said resin layer either overlies or underlies the base layer (claim 3).

Response to Amendment

5) Claims 6-8, 16, rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cronin (4,330,023), is withdrawn in view of Applicants argument.

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6) Applicant's arguments filed 4/14/2003, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants allege that cited reference, Stigberg, shows belt strips having reduced or tapered portions for buttered, skived or interlocking joints between strips, but does not appear to show reduced or tapered edges on both sides of a given resin layer on one side of a reinforcing layer.

The examiner responds as follows. In the previous Office Action, Stigberg was cited to disclose a belt in a nip formation in a papermaking machine, and was cited as a prior art made of record and not relied upon but considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Stigberg reference discloses part of the invention (claims 6-8, 16) as per above. The belt shows reduced thickness at edges. The Figure 5 shows one side of the belt only.

Conclusion

7) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Halpern whose telephone number is 703-305-4522. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, (9:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 703-308-1164. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7718 for regular communications and 703-305-3599 for After Final communications.


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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0651.

MH

Mark Halpern
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1731

May 14, 2003


STEVEN P. GRIFFIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700